

BEST FRIENDS KINDNESS TO  
ANIMALS WEEKEND

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this past weekend was designated by Best Friends Animals Society as Best Friends Kindness Weekend.

Best Friends Animal Society, based outside Kanab, Utah, works with shelters and rescue groups nationwide to bring about a time when there will be no more homeless pets. Best Friends operates the country's largest sanctuary for homeless animals, and provides adoption, spay/neuter, and educational programs nationwide.

The purpose of Best Friends Weekend was to remind all of us how animals enrich our lives through their companionship, friendship and love. Best Friends Animal Society believes that dedicating one weekend each year to promoting kind acts towards animals can make our communities and our world a better place.

Cruelty to animals often leads to cruelty to people. I've been a strong and outspoken supporter of animal welfare issues since first coming to Congress, and I've authored legislation to help protect animals and promote their welfare. Organizations like Best Friends serve as a conscience to lawmakers and the country in these matters and remind us that our first duty is to protect the most vulnerable and innocent among us.

This past weekend's activities of kindness inspired by Best Friends should serve as a reminder to all of us, that in this increasing fragmented society we need to be ever more compassionate about the animals in our world, whether they are companion pets, service animals such as seeing-eye dogs, livestock, or nature's wildlife. It also serves as a reminder that the bond between humans and animals is a vital one and is capable of bringing joy and healing to people of all ages. Finally, it serves to remind us to be more kind and compassionate to our fellow man. We coexist in this world—human to human and human to animal—and those bonds must be maintained and kept strong.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 22, 2006, I was unavoidably detained at a Border Health Conference hosted by the Texas Medical Association in conjunction with my office, and missed rollcall votes Nos. 308, 309, 310, and 311. If I had been present, I would have voted no on these votes.

CELEBRATING MRS. OZIA MAE  
STURGIS' 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very special New Yorker, Mrs. Ozia Mae Sturgis, a very happy 80th birthday. Mrs. Sturgis commemorated this occasion with family members and friends at a birthday tea at the William Hodson Senior Center. I would like to join them in celebrating her life, her contributions, and her career of community service.

The eldest of 12 children, she was born Ozia Mae Hammond on June 21, 1926, in Augusta, Georgia, and moved to New York City in the 1940s, where she met and married Jimmie Sturgis.

Mrs. Sturgis and her husband raised seven children in their Bronx home, where she instilled in them the importance of education, a strong work ethic, and the value of family. Their children and seven grandchildren all still reside in the New York Metropolitan Area.

She is very active in her church and her community, serving as a past president and current Board Member of the William Hodson Senior Center in the Bronx. Last year, she was the proud recipient of the Center's "Mother of the Year" award.

On the occasion of Ozia Mae Sturgis's 80th birthday, I am pleased to join her family and friends in wishing her many happy years to come.